Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, ENRG, EI

SUBJECT: EC SUMMIT MEETING: ENERGY

- 1. EAMONN GALLAGHER, DEPUTY SECRETARY AT IRISH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, BRIEFED US ON EC SUMMIT MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE IN DUBLIN, MARCH 10 AND 11. THIS TELEGRAM COVERS ENERGY: OTHER TOPICS REPORTED SEPTELS.
- 2. GALLAGHER SAID THAT ENERGY WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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LENGTH DURING SUMMIT MEETING. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DECIDED

TO SET UP A SPECIAL AD HOC, HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE THE EC POSITION ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO ENERGY IN PREPARATION FOR PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND MAIN PRODUCER/CONSUMER ENERGY CONFERENCE. GALLAGHER POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NO OTHER FORUM WITHIN THE EC WHERE ALL ENERGY-RELATED MATTERS CAN BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE.

THE COMMITTEE WILL BE MADE UP OF THE SAME INDIVIDUALS WHO ATTEND THE IEA MEETINGS IN PARIS. IN THIS CASE, GALLAGHER WILL BE THE IRISH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE AND WILL ALSO BE ITS CHAIRMAN, SINCE IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CHAIR WILL ROTATE WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY. GALLAGHER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED AD HOC IN ORDER TO LIMIT ITS LIFE SPAN TO THE PERIOD COVERED BY THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND THE MAIN ENERGY CONFERENCE.

- 3. GALLAGHER EMPHASIZED THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE WILL NOT BE SOLELY DEVOTED TO THE INTERNAL ENERGY PROBLEMS OF THE NINE. ITS JOB WILL BE TO COORDINATE COMMUNITY VIEWS ON ENERGY RELATED PROBLEMS WITH THE IEA ITSELF AS WELL AS WITH OTHER MAJOR CONSUMERS SUCH AS US AND JAPAN. IT IS THUS ONE MORE CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH US CAN EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH COMMUNITY. IN THIS CONNECTION GALLAGHER TOLD US THAT AS CHAIRMAN HE IS AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME FOR CONSULTATION WITH USG REPRESENTATIVES. HE ADDED THAT HE HAS SCHEDULED FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR THE MORNING OF MARCH 19 IN PARIS JUST PRIOR TO GOVERNING BOARD MEETING. THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE ORGANIZATIONAL.
- 4. GALLAGHER SAID THAT ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES IN SETTING UP THE COMMITTEE WAS TO BRING THE FRENCH IN AT THE RIGHT LEVEL IN ENERGY GROUP, OPEN TO DIRECT CONTACT WITH EC COLLEAGUES AND WITH THE IEA AS WELL AS WITH OTHER MAJOR ENERGY CONSUMERS. HERETOFORE THERE HAVE BEEN CONCERTATION MEETINGS AMONG THE NINE PRIOR TO GOVERNING BOARD MEETINGS, BUT THIS WOULD BRING THE FRENCH INTO A MORE MEANINGFUL ROLE AT THE WORKING LEVEL.
- 5. SOME DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE. ALL EC MEMBER EXCEPT FRANCE HAVE AGREED THAT IEA SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AS AN OBSERVER, BUT FRENCH HAVE NOT YET ISSUED AN IVITATION TO IEA. SINCE EC CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMBERS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION ON THIS, THE MATTER OF IEA ATTENDANCE REMAINS UNRESOLVED. THE FRENCH CONTINUE TO SAY THAT IEA ATTENDANCE IS "A TRIFLING TECHNICALITY", BUT NOTHING GETS ACCOMPLISHED. GALLAGHER EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THIS WOULD BE A VERY GOOD TIME FOR USG TO APPROACH FRENCH DIRECTLY IN ORDER TO PERSUADE THEM TO ISSUE AN INVITATION TO IEA.

6. COMPOSITION OF MAIN ENERGY CONFERENCE WAS TOUCHED UPON BRIEFLY BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. NO CONSENSUS WAS DEVELOPED ON HOW LARGE IT SHOULD BE, BUT MOST EC MEMBERS TEND TO FAVOR A LARGER CONFERENCE. ALSO, MANY EC MEMBERS, WHILE THEY WANT TO RESTRICT THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CONFERENCE TO ENERGY, FEAR THAT OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL PUSH FOR INCLUSION OF ALL RAW MATERIALS. GALLAGHER SAID IRISH FEEL STRONGLY THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD COVER ENERGY ONLY. THEY BELIEVE THERE ARE AMPLE FORA FOR DISCUSSING OTHER RAW MATERIALS (UNCTAD, GATT, ETC). NO DECISION TAKEN BY SUMMIT ON ANY OF THESE POINTS.

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